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CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling pests which comprises exposing a surface of the pest to a particulate composition containing particles of an initially unmagnetized material, which 5 is capable of becoming magnetically polarized when subjected to an electric or magnetic field, the said particles being associated with at least one pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical.
2. A method so claimed in claim 1 wherein the particles comprise metallic iron, 10 nickel or cobalt, or mixtures thereof.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the particles are coated with a material which is a carrier for the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical, or coated directly with the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical.
- 15 4. A method so claimed in claim 3 wherein the carrier comprises a lipid, a resin or a polymer.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the lipid is a fatty acid, or an ester or salt 20 thereof.
6. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the particles have a unit weight corresponding to that of a sphere of a diameter in the range of from 0.1 to 50 micrometres.
- 25 7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the pesticide is an insecticide, acaricide, fungicide, insect growth regulator or chemosterilant.
8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the pesticide is a 30 bacterium, fungus or virus.

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9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the behaviour modifying chemical is a pheromone or allelochemical.

10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 wherein the pesticide is a chemical or naturally occurring insecticide or acaricide which comprises up to 10% by weight of the particulate composition.

11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 or claim 8 wherein the pesticide is a bacterium, fungus or virus which comprises up to 40% by weight of the particulate composition.

12. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 or claim 9, wherein the behaviour modifying chemical comprises from 1 picogram to 1 microgram per particle having an average particle size of from 0.1 to 50 micrometers.

13. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the pest is lured to a dispenser in which one or more surfaces is coated with the particulate composition.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the pest is lured to the dispenser by a chemical attractant, biological attractant, food source, light, colour, visual pattern, infra red or acoustic source, or a combination thereof.

15. A pesticidal composition in particulate form which comprises particles of an initially unmagnetized material, which is capable of becoming magnetically polarized on exposure to an electric or magnetic field, the said particles being associated with at least one pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical.

16. A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the particles comprise iron, nickel or cobalt, or mixtures thereof.

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17. A composition as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16 wherein the particles are coated with a material which is a carrier for the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical, or coated directly with the pesticide or behaviour modifying chemical.

5 18. A composition as claimed in claim 17 wherein the carrier comprises a lipid, a resin or a polymer.

19. A composition as claimed in claim 18 wherein the lipid is a fatty acid, or an ester or salt thereof.

10 20. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 19 wherein the particles have a unit weight corresponding to that of a sphere of a diameter in the range of from 0.1 to 50 micrometres.

15 21. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20 wherein the pesticide is an insecticide, acaricide, fungicide, insect growth regulator or chemosterilant.

22. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20 wherein the pesticide is a bacterium, fungus or virus.

20 23. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20 wherein the behaviour modifying chemical is a pheromone or allelochemical.

25 24. An insect trap or dispenser in which at least one surface thereof is coated with a pesticidal composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 23.